Among the Hidden - *Population Math Activity*
based on *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Luke hides from the government because there is a law limiting the number of children a family may have.

Article 1 Section 2 of the U. S. Constitution requires that the federal government conduct a census. The Decennial Census is conducted every 10 years, in years ending in zero. The Census Bureau counts all people, not just citizens. They also ask questions like: age & education status.

The U. S. Census Bureau provides online data for the USA for the 1990 and 2000.
http://factfinder.census.gov/

1. Obtain the total population data and the data for individuals in your age group, for your state, from the past 2 or 3 censuses.

2. Make a chart showing the population trends for your state.

> To make a chart or graph using Excel
> http://www.internet4classrooms.com/excel_create_chart.htm

> To make a bar chart or graph using AppleWorks
> http://www.mrsoshouse.com/computer/bargr.pdf

> To make a bar chart using free Google Spreadsheet
> http://docs.google.com/support/bin/topic.py?hl=en&topic=15115

> To make a bar chart
> http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/createAgraph/default.aspx

Interpret your data - draw conclusions - Open a new word processing document. Paste your chart in it. Answer the following questions in the word processing document.

3. Is the population in your state increasing, remaining steady or declining?

Are the number of kids in the 5-17 age group increasing, remaining steady or declining?

4. What are some of the negative consequences of a growing population?

What are some of the positive consequences of a growing population?

5. What are some of the negative consequences of a declining population?

What are some of the positive consequences of a declining population?